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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

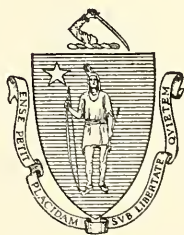
OF

STATE AID AND PENSIONS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30,

1935



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,

State House, Boston, January 11, 1936.

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives:

In conformity with the requirements of Chapter 115, Section 2, General Laws, I herewith submit to your honorable bodies the annual report of the Department of State Aid and Pensions, the part relating to State and Military Aid and burials being for the year 1934, and that portion relating to Hospital or Home Care and United States pensions covering the year 1935.

Very respectfully,

RICHARD R. FLYNN,

Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT

STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES

Disbursements of State and Military Aid to soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns, the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Border Service and the War with Germany, and their dependents, and for the burial of soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns, the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Border Service and the War with Germany, and army nurses, by 252 cities and towns in the Commonwealth during 1934—reimbursement being due and payable to the disbursing municipalities on or before November 10, 1935—were as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Civil War | \$78,353.00 |
| State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Indian Campaigns | 1,732.00 |
| State Aid to soldiers and dependents, War with Spain | 46,854.25 |
| State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Philippine Service | 13,301.00 |
| State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Mexican Border Service | 120.00 |
| State Aid to soldiers and dependents, German War | 118,564.96 |
| Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Civil War | 180.00 |
| Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, War with Spain | 4,044.50 |
| Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Philippine Service | 7,051.50 |
| Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Mexican Border Service | 2,032.50 |
| Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, German War | 107,409.41 |
| Burial expenses of soldiers and their dependents | 10,853.73 |
| Total for 1934 | \$390,496.85 |

These figures show a decrease of \$65,918.19 from 1933. This is due to the dropping of a number of State Aid World War cases from our rolls by reason of the fact that under the National Recovery Act the Veterans' Administration suspended payments of disability allowance. We were therefore obliged to suspend payments of State Aid to those veterans who lost their pensions, as the State Aid law provides for payment to pensioners only.

Owing to the fact that State Aid was suspended in these cases we were obliged to grant Military Aid, thus increasing the amount of our Military Aid payments. These veterans were also assisted by the various municipalities under the Soldiers' Relief law.

State Aid

The total number of recipients of State Aid, Civil War, for 1934, was 807, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 68; decrease, 21
Wives, 1

Widows, 718; decrease, 131
Children, 20

Total 807

Net decrease of recipients during 1934, 152

Average cost to State per person aided, \$97.09+

The total number of recipients of State Aid, Indian Campaign Service, for 1934, was 16, classified as follows:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Soldiers, 6; decrease, 1 | Widows, 9; decrease, 1 |
| Wives, 1 | |
| Total | 16 |
| Net decrease during 1934, 2 | |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$108.25 | |

The total number of State Aid recipients, Spanish War, for 1934, was 517, classified as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Soldiers, 274; increase, 30 | Widows, 209; increase, 22 |
| Wives, 13; decrease, 1 | Mothers, 20; decrease, 3 |
| | Army Nurses, 1; increase, 1 |
| Total | 517 |
| Net increase of recipients during 1934, 49 | |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$90.62+ | |

The total number of State Aid recipients, Philippine Insurrection, for 1934, was 158, classified as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Soldiers, 81; decrease, 11 | Widows, 67; increase, 5 |
| Wives, 1 | Mothers, 8; decrease, 2 |
| | Army Nurses, 1; increase, 1 |
| Total | 158 |
| Net decrease during 1934, 7 | |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$84.18+ | |

The total number of recipients of State Aid, Mexican Border Service, for 1934, was 1, classified as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Soldiers, 1 | |
| Total | 1 |
| Net increase of recipients during 1934, 0 | |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$120 | |

The total number of recipients of State Aid, War with Germany, for 1934, was 1,320, classified as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Soldiers, 506; decrease, 1,745 | Mothers, 60; increase, 11 |
| Yeoman F., O; decrease, 2 | Fathers, 2 |
| Wives, 54; decrease, 139 | Children, 45; decrease, 9 |
| Widows, 652; increase, 88 | Army Nurses, 1; decrease, 2 |
| Total | 1,320 |
| Net decrease of recipients during 1934, 1,798 | |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$89.82+ | |

Military Aid

Military Aid to the amount of \$120,717.91, an increase of \$39,233.77 over 1933, was disbursed as follows:

Civil War soldiers, 1; decrease, 1
 Spanish War soldiers, 52; increase, 7
 Philippine Insurrection soldiers, 62; increase, 1
 Philippine Insurrection Army Nurses, 1; increase, 1
 Mexican Border Service soldiers, 11; decrease, 9
 German War soldiers, 898; increase, 22
 German War Yeoman F., 1; decrease, 1

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Civil War</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2 | \$180.00 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$180.00 | |
| <i>Spanish War</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2 | 3,454.50 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$67.73+ | |
| Amount expended, Classes 3 and 4 | 590.00 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$590.00 | |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| <i>Philippine Ins. Service</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2 | 6,691.50 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$107.92+ | |
| Amount expended, Classes 3 and 4 | 360.00 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$360.00 | |
| <i>Mexican Border Service</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2 | 1,972.50 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$197.25 | |
| Amount expended, Classes 3 and 4 | 60.00 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$60.00 | |
| <i>German War Service</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2 | 107,049.41 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$119.60+ | |
| Amount expended, Classes 3 and 4 | 360.00 |
| Average cost to State per person aided, \$90.00 | |
| Total | \$120,717.91 |

Burials

During the year 1934, 123 burial claims were approved at an expense to the Commonwealth of \$10,853.73, an increase of \$2,136.83 over 1933. They are classified as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|----|
| Civil War:— | | | |
| Soldiers | 19 | Increase | 12 |
| Widows | 48 | Increase | 8 |
| Total | 67 | | |
| Indian Campaigns:— | | | |
| Soldiers | 1 | | |
| Widows | 0 | Decrease | 2 |
| Total | 1 | | |
| Spanish War:— | | | |
| Soldiers | 15 | Decrease | 2 |
| Wives | 1 | Increase | 1 |
| Widows | 4 | Decrease | 1 |
| Mothers | 4 | Increase | 4 |
| Total | 24 | | |
| Philippine Ins.:— | | | |
| Soldiers | 5 | Increase | 4 |
| Mothers | 0 | Decrease | 1 |
| Total | 5 | | |
| German War:— | | | |
| Soldiers | 10 | Increase | 3 |
| Wives | 8 | Increase | 2 |
| Widows | 2 | Increase | 1 |
| Mothers | 1 | Decrease | 5 |
| Fathers | 3 | Increase | 2 |
| Children | 2 | Increase | 2 |
| Total | 26 | | |

Net increase during 1934, 28

Average cost to State per person aided, \$88.24+

HOSPITAL OR HOME CARE OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS, THEIR WIVES AND WIDOWS UNDER CHAPTER 340, ACTS OF 1929

The following is a table of beneficiaries and amounts paid under this Chapter from December 1, 1934, to November 30, 1935:

| | <i>Soldiers</i> | <i>Widows</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| December | 1 | 91 | 92 | \$2,625.50 |
| January | 1 | 84 | 85 | 2,372.48 |
| February | 1 | 82 | 83 | 2,308.52 |
| March | 1 | 88 | 89 | 2,472.80 |
| April | 1 | 87 | 88 | 2,396.00 |
| May | 1 | 91 | 92 | 2,551.00 |
| June | 1 | 100 | 101 | 2,836.51 |
| July | 1 | 98 | 99 | 2,649.40 |
| August | 1 | 96 | 97 | 2,685.75 |
| September | 1 | 96 | 97 | 2,782.42 |
| October | 1 | 92 | 93 | 2,513.00 |
| November | 1 | 94 | 95 | 2,658.00 |
| Total | | | | <u>\$30,851.38</u> |

These figures show a decrease of \$4,712.84 from the expenditures for 1934.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The receipts and expenditures for this department for 1935, were as follows:

Receipts

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Amounts assessed on cities and towns on account of special care of Civil War veterans, their wives and widows, under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929 | \$15,744.52 |
| Reimbursement for agents' services under Chapter 270, Acts of 1932 | 88.87 |
| State Aid refunds, 1935 | 605.00 |
| | <u>\$16,438.39</u> |

Expenditures

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Personal services of Commissioner and Deputies, agents, clerks and stenographers, and incidental and contingent expenses | \$42,662.95 |
| Reimbursement to cities and towns for State and Military Aid and burial of soldiers and sailors and their dependents on account of 1934, paid in 1935 | 390,496.85 |
| Special Care for Civil War veterans, their wives and widows under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929 | 30,851.38 |
| | <u>\$464,011.18</u> |

The total expenditures by the Commonwealth for State and Military Aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors and their dependents, including maintenance and improvement of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, and on account of special laws, from 1861 to the close of 1934, were approximately \$92,000,000.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR REIMBURSEMENT FUND

During the year 1935, the sum of \$336 was expended under Chapter 280, Acts of 1928, entitled the "Spanish-American War Reimbursement Fund," leaving a balance of \$184.38 on December 1, 1935.

PERSONNEL

This department is indebted to Colonel Thomas F. Tierney, Surgeon-General of the Commonwealth, for services rendered and professional advice in his medical examinations of the veterans of the various wars who seek aid, and his detailed reports of their disabilities enable us to determine the amount of aid needed.

Our agents made 7,288 examinations during 1935, as follows: 6,167 cases under the State and Military Aid law were investigated; 199 cases under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929, were investigated; 234 personal appeals in Soldiers' Relief cases required investigation by this department; 682 Soldiers' Relief cases were investigated at the request of the municipal authorities; and 6 burial cases required special investigation.

We have received excellent cooperation from the cities and towns in their consideration of the veterans, even when their funds were low because of the depression, and appreciate their efforts to be of service.

PENSION DIVISION

The total number of United States pension claims filed during the year ending December 31, 1935, was 363, classified as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Soldiers, Act May 1, 1920 | 2 |
| Soldiers, Act June 2, 1930, Increase | 1 |
| Soldiers, Act June 9, 1930 | 7 |
| Soldiers, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars, Original | 4 |
| Soldiers, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars, Increase | 1 |
| Soldiers, Act March 20, 1933, Original | 11 |
| Soldiers, Act March 20, 1933, Increase | 1 |
| Soldiers, Act March 28, 1934, Spanish War, Original | 28 |
| Soldiers, Act March 28, 1934, Spanish War, Increase | 52 |
| Soldiers, Act August 13, 1935, Spanish War, Original | 28 |
| Soldiers, Act August 13, 1935, Spanish War, Increase | 51 |
| Widows Accrued | 3 |
| Widows, Act May 1, 1920 amended by Act June 9, 1930, Civil War | 9 |
| Widows, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars | 3 |
| Widows, Act March 20, 1933, Original | 6 |
| Widows, Act March 28, 1934, Spanish War | 55 |
| Widows, Act June 28, 1934, World War | 1 |
| Widows, Act August 13, 1935, Spanish War | 42 |
| Wives, Apportioned Pension, Act March 3, 1899 | 6 |
| Mothers | 3 |
| Guardians | 7 |
| Reimbursement | 30 |
| Unendorsed Check | 10 |
| Certificates in lieu of lost discharge | 2 |
| Total | 363 |
| Number of claims allowed | 280 |
| Number of claims rejected | 49 |
| Amount collected | \$35,453.12 |

The President of the United States on February 8, 1935, issued Executive Order No. 6967 authorizing the payment of pension benefits under specified circumstances to veterans who left the continental limits of the United States between August 13, 1898, and July 4, 1902, under orders for military or naval service in Guam, Cuba or Puerto Rico.

Executive Order 6967

"Any person who served in the military or naval service of the United States between August 13, 1898, and July 4, 1902, both dates inclusive, and who left the continental United States under orders for military or naval service in Guam, Cuba, or Puerto Rico, between such dates, or the widow of any such person as long as she remains unmarried and/or dependents of any such person, to whom a pension was being paid on March 19, 1933, shall, from the date of this regulation, be entitled to receive a pension at 75 per centum of the rates in effect for such persons on March 19, 1933, subject to the reduction provided for in regulations issued pursuant to the act of March 20, 1933, ch. 3, 48 Stat. 8 (Public, No. 2, 73d Congress), pertaining to hospitalized cases: Provided, that no payments may be made to the person who served if his disability is the result of his own willful misconduct: Provided further, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply (1) to any person to whom payments were being made on March 19, 1933, through fraud, clear or unmistakeable error as to conclusions of fact or law, or misrepresentation of a material fact, except that decisions as to degree of disability rendered prior to March 20, 1933, shall be conclusive, or (2) to any person during any year following a year for which such person was not entitled to exemption from the payment of a Federal income tax: Provided, however, that a veteran in Federal employ shall not receive more than \$6 per month if his salary if single exceeds \$1,000 and if married \$2,500 per annum: Provided further, that no pension shall be granted under this regulation for disability not shown to be due to service or for age if the person served less than ninety days and was not discharged for disability incurred in the service in line of duty: And provided further, that persons who meet the requirements of the laws in effect March 19, 1933, and who were not on the rolls on March 19, 1933, shall, subject to the limitations of this regulation, be entitled to receive pension upon the filing of such claim as may be prescribed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs."

On August 13, 1935, an Act was passed by Congress which reenacts in their entirety as of that date all laws in effect March 19, 1933, which granted monetary benefits to veterans of the Spanish-American War, including the Boxer Rebellion and Philippine Insurrection, and to their widows and dependents. Accordingly the following laws are reenacted, viz: Section 314 of the Act of October 6, 1917 (40 Stat. 408); the Act of July 16, 1918 (40 Stat. 903); the Act of June 5, 1920 (41 Stat. 982); the Act of September 1, 1922 (42 Stat. 834); the Act of May 1, 1926 (44 Stat. 382); the Act of June 2, 1930 (46 Stat. 492); and the general law so far as it confers rights on veterans of those wars and on their dependents. It is a source of gratification to the State that by these provisions many veterans and their dependents have been restored to the rolls and are now in receipt of pension benefits.

Our appreciation is extended to General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Mr. E. L. Bailey, Director of Widows and Dependents' Claims Service, and Mr. George E. Brown, Director of Veterans' Claims Service, Washington, D. C., for their ready cooperation and careful consideration of our claims and correspondence, notwithstanding the great volume of work by reason of pension legislation. We are also indebted to Colonel William J. Blake of the local office of the U. S. Veterans' Administration and his entire staff for their helpful assistance and cooperation.